

REFLECTIONS ON

Deborah & Huldah

SECRETS
UNSEALED



MINISTRY UPDATE
Third Quarter 2013



Dear Friend of Secrets Unsealed,

Some of you might have heard that I am a member of the General Conference Theology of Ordination Committee where the meaning of ordination is being seriously discussed. At our January meeting the groundwork was laid for the next meeting in July where the thorny issue of ordinations without regard to gender will be discussed. If there ever was a time when we should be praying for divine guidance it is now! This issue has the potential to split the church and lead it down the road to chaos. Please, please, pray that the Lord will unite His church upon the platform of Biblical truth on this matter.

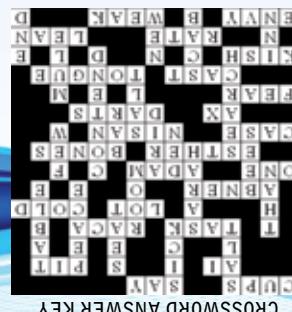
In this issue of our newsletter I have written an article on the roles of Deborah and Huldah in the history of Israel. Those who favor women's ordination to pastoral leadership have often used the example of these two godly women as support for their view. After all, it is argued, if Deborah served as a judge and Huldah as a prophet, why can't women serve in the church as elders/pastors? I trust that the article will be helpful in clarifying some of the misunderstandings about God's call to these two able women.

On another note, I am pleased to announce that construction of the production studio and distribution center has begun. The projected completion date is set for the middle of September, praise the Lord! We are thankful that we have already received the necessary funds to complete the construction debt free.

However, as you know, we must still raise \$250,000 for the production equipment. As of this writing we have received about \$50,000 toward what we have called Phase 3. Our dream is to dedicate the entire facility to the Lord at our yearly summit on October 10-13, but in order for this to happen we need to raise the remaining \$200,000 for the equipment in the next two and a half months. I believe that with God's help working through our supporters, this is doable. Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial contribution to this project which will bring our precious Seventh-day Adventist message to millions who are searching for meaning in life and explanations to the complexities of end-time events.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support, and be assured that we pray for you daily.

In His service,



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**SECRETS
UNSEALED**

MINISTRY UPDATE

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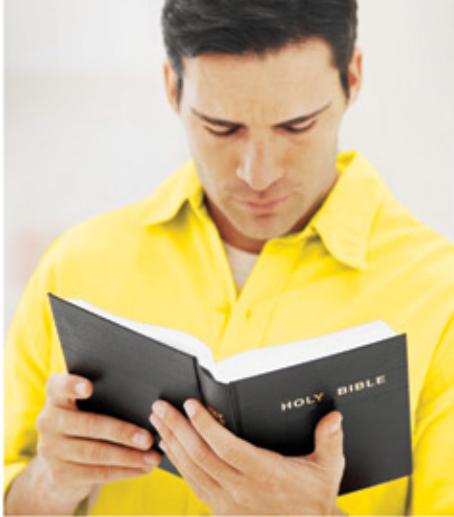
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TESTIMONY TIME

Verses Unveiled

"I was born and raised Catholic. Later, I joined a Baptist church, but I had many questions that were not answered. I thank God for leading me to an Adventist church where the truth was shown to me. Verses I had read in the past suddenly had real meaning. Second Thessalonians 2:1-12 was always very confusing, and nobody had answers that convinced me. I saw Pastor Bohr teach two messages on it, and I have been hooked ever since. Pastor Bohr is truly blessed with the gift of teaching, and my friends and I have been blessed by coming across his messages. I find it amazing how he teaches almost exclusively from the Bible (mixed with history) and uses Ellen White to punctuate his point."

JIM, EMAIL

Stars on Our Crowns

"3ABN, you, Bradshaw, Cox, Batchelor, all have truly changed and saved my life. I pray that you all can continue to bring the light of life to as many as are ready."

MICHAEL, COLORADO

Invaluable Study Notes

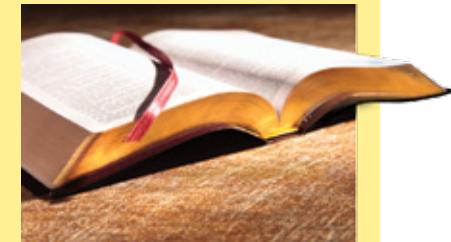
"The sermons, resources, and information from Pastor Bohr are a great spiritual blessing to me. I recently finished watching all 32 sermons for the *His Way Is In the Sanctuary* series and learned a lot. At first, I tried to write notes while I was listening to the sermons, but Pastor Bohr has so much good information that I decided to order the study notes for the series and just highlight and make small comments on them so that I could keep up! Now I'm ordering the *Three Angels' Message* study notes and will do the same with that series. I'm very excited to be learning more about these important Biblical truths!! Lord willing I would love to come out to California for a conference someday and meet Pastor Bohr and the staff there. May God bless all of the work by everyone involved at Secrets Unsealed."

BRIAN, NORTH CAROLINA
BIBLE/HISTORY TEACHER

An Eternity of Souls

"I'm really blessed by your ministry. I just finished listening to Pastor Bohr's CDs on the book of Revelation, and for the first time I can understand this wonderful book. I came to the Adventist Faith from the Orthodox Church through the book *The Great Controversy* by E.G. White and God's grace. I love reading His holy Word in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Pastor Bohr's presentations are opening eyes and understanding. I pray daily for his ministry and his health, knowing that God has special plans for him. There are many people in the world, waiting for the opportunity to hear God's message and to respond to it. On June 15, 2013, I was sharing with my local church some principles in order to understand Revelation, the way explained by Pastor Bohr, and there was a gentleman for the first time in a SDA congregation from the Anglican church, currently studying theology, and had a great interest in what was presented. He asked many questions and was satisfied with the answers. He took notes during the presentation. When I mentioned the book *The Great Controversy*, he said that a few weeks earlier, he visited our ABC book shop and bought it. Our pastor stays in touch with him. Only eternity will reveal the results of Pastor Bohr's love, efforts, and ministry for Jesus. Many thanks and blessings."

LOUISE, AUSTRALIA



Growing Day by Day

"I am growing spiritually each day thanks to 3ABN and your ministry."

ENUE, JAMAICA

The Hope of Truth

"A year ago I went to one of your three week seminars, *Revelation of Hope*, and God blessed me by showing me the truth through your ministry. I'm thankful for this ministry and look forward to the day I might become part of it. God bless all the people who dedicate their time to this growing ministry."

JAMIE, FACEBOOK

A Major Impact

"May God increase you in knowledge on your unfailing love of opening our eyes to see what is happening on earth. I can't believe how the Matthew 24 series has impacted my life. We have a group of young men, about 11 of us, and we have dedicated ourselves to follow each program you do Pastor Bohr. You speak clearly, humbly, and it is even easy to understand the Spirit of Prophecy the way you present it."

NTOKOZO, SOUTH AFRICA

Deborah & Huldah



BY STEPHEN BOHR

As is well known, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is presently involved in an in-depth study to ascertain if there is any biblical support for the ordination of women as elders and pastors. Various arguments have been proposed by those who favor the practice and in this article I would like to evaluate two of those arguments, the cases of Deborah and Huldah.

It is customary for the women's ordination advocates to take exceptional, out-of-the-ordinary cases and make them the norm to be followed in all situations. For example, as I documented in my recent book, *Reflections on Women's Ordination*, they regularly bring up the unusual case of China where women, due to irregular political circumstances and a lack of a denominational organizational structure, have been forced to assume leadership positions in the church.

Another **out-of-the-ordinary** instance is that of Deborah, the judge and prophetess of Israel. The women's ordination advocates argue that if such an influential woman as Deborah could be a judge and a prophetess in Israel, then women should be allowed to serve as elders and pastors in the church. They also argue that Huldah the prophetess occupied a prominent leadership position in Israel and therefore

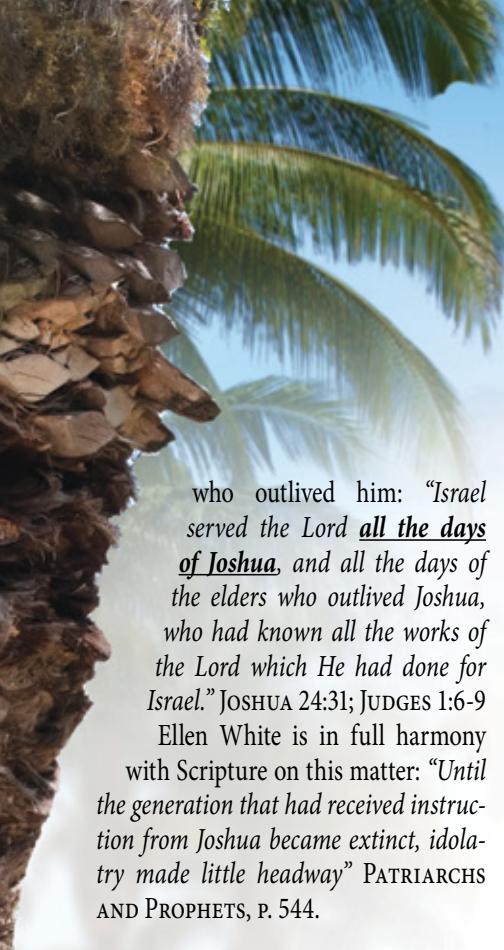
women today should be ordained as elders and gospel ministers along with men. But is such logic sound? More importantly, does it square with the biblical evidence?

MOSES, JOSHUA AND THE ELDERS

First of all, it is important to realize that the period of the judges is not the ideal pattern for what James and Ellen White called 'gospel order'. The period of the judges was a somewhat unruly stage of Israel's history between the death of the elders who succeeded Joshua (ca. 1300 BC) and the Hebrew monarchy (ca. 1050 BC).

Inspiration tells us that while Moses was alive he set up an organizational system in Israel which Ellen White referred to as a 'perfect organization'. It is clear from Scripture that this perfect organizational structure was passed along to Joshua when Moses laid hands on him shortly before he died: "Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for **Moses had laid his hands on him**; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses" DEUTERONOMY 34:9.

Apparently this ideal organizational system continued not only under the leadership of Joshua but also during the period of the elders



who outlived him: “*Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the Lord which He had done for Israel.*” JOSHUA 24:31; JUDGES 1:6-9

Ellen White is in full harmony with Scripture on this matter: “*Until the generation that had received instruction from Joshua became extinct, idolatry made little headway*” PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, p. 544.

PERIOD OF THE JUDGES

But then came the period of the Judges when the organizational system under Moses, Joshua, and the elders seemed to a great degree to fall apart. Scripture tells us that “*another generation arose after them* [the elders who succeeded Joshua] *who did not know the Lord or the work which He had done for Israel*” JUDGES 2:10. The Bible record makes it clear that during this transitional period there was no centralized authority in Israel and everyone did what was right in their own eyes (JUDGES 17:6; 21:25).

The crucial question at this point is this: Should the period of the judges be the ideal model for church organization today? Would it not be better for us to focus on the organizational system that was established in the days of Moses which Ellen White described as a ‘perfect order’? The Lord’s servant explicitly affirmed that we should learn lessons from the organizational order that was established under divine guidance by Moses: “*Has God changed from a God of order?—No; he is the same in the present dispensation as in the former. Paul says, “God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.” [1 Corinthians 14:33.] He is as particular now as then. And he designs that we should learn lessons of order and organization from the perfect order* instituted in the days of Moses, for the benefit of the children of Israel” TESTIMONIES, VOL. 6, p. 647.

DEBORAH’S ROLE UNUSUAL

When the elders who succeeded Joshua passed away, the organizational system of Israel entered a somewhat chaotic period. During this time, a series of magistrates arose to ‘judge’ Israel among which was Deborah. It must be underlined that during this period it was highly unusual for a woman to serve as a civil magistrate. Ellen White explains that Deborah’s service was outside the norm: “*She [Deborah] was known as a prophetess, and in the absence of the usual magistrates, the people had sought to her for counsel and justice*” SONS AND

DAUGHTERS OF GOD, p. 37.

Ellen White’s remark is clearly corroborated by examining the list of seventeen judges in Israel (including the two sons of Samuel): Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Eli, Samuel, Joel and Abijah. What stands out in this list of seventeen judges is that only one of them was a woman! Further, all the judges from Othniel to Samuel served as military leaders, Deborah being the lone exception!

DEBORAH’S ROLE

The question is, were there no men in Israel that it was necessary for Deborah to do what a man should have been doing? Of course there were! What the story of Deborah in Judges 4 and 5 teaches us, is that if a male will not step forward as God intended, then God will use a woman prophet to encourage the male to step up to the plate and fulfill his leadership role.

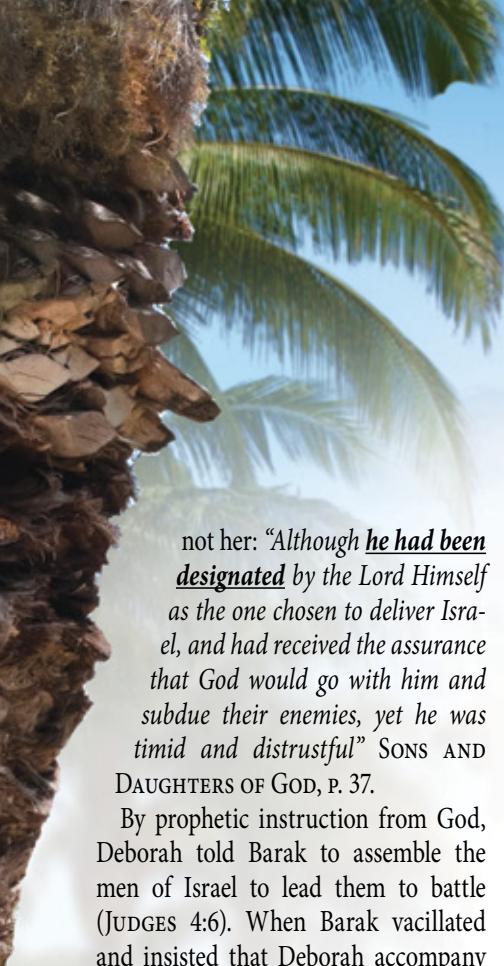
As I have read the egalitarian (those who believe that men and women in the home and in the church share equal and interchangeable roles) literature on Deborah, I have found that it stretches the evidence to the breaking point by referring to Deborah as one having authority over men, as being the highest leader in Israel, and as one who exercised political and judicial power over the entire nation, including men. But is this the picture that Scripture really portrays?

What do we know for certain about Deborah? We know that before she was a judge she was a prophetess (JUDGES 4:4). That is to say, her predominant calling was that of a prophet. We also know that because she was respected as a prophet, her services were retained by the people as a judge (JUDGES 4:4). The Scripture record states that Deborah judged private and most likely civil cases of individuals who came to her under a palm tree (JUDGES 4:4) which is definitely a strange place for a courtroom!! Deborah did not serve as a priest, a Levite, an elder, or a king.

Furthermore, Deborah is called a mother in Israel who was chosen to deliver messages of encouragement from God to the military commander, Barak. The expression ‘mother in Israel’ undoubtedly refers to the fact that Deborah was a perceptive woman who provided wise prophetic counsel to the military commander, Barak. That this is the case can be seen in the only other reference to this title in 2 SAMUEL 20:19. There, an unnamed woman provided wise counsel to another military commander, Joab, thus sparing an entire city from destruction.

WHO LED THE BATTLE?

Contrary to what pro-ordination advocates claim, Deborah did not summon and lead Israel to battle but rather advised Barak to do so (JUDGES 4:6, 7, 14). Ellen White explicitly affirms that God had chosen Barak to go to battle, not Deborah. He was to be the leader,



not her: "Although he had been designated by the Lord Himself as the one chosen to deliver Israel, and had received the assurance that God would go with him and subdue their enemies, yet he was timid and distrustful" SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD, p. 37.

By prophetic instruction from God, Deborah told Barak to assemble the men of Israel to lead them to battle (JUDGES 4:6). When Barak vacillated and insisted that Deborah accompany him (JUDGES 4:8), she rebuked him and promised that he would lose honor because God would deliver Israel from their enemies by the hand of a woman (4:8, 9). This strongly suggests that Barak had failed to exercise his manly duty as Israel's leader.

Contrary to what the women's ordination lobby claims, Deborah was not the woman who delivered Israel from the hand of Sisera. JUDGES 4:14-16 unambiguously indicates that Sisera was delivered into the hand of Israel under the leadership of Barak, and the

woman who killed the commander of the enemy hosts was not Deborah but rather the woman Jael who drove a stake through Sisera's head (JUDGES 4:21).

BARAK'S HESITATION

Why did Barak hesitate to go to battle without Deborah's support? Contrary to what one may think, it was not because Barak was a coward. Rather, he had little confidence that Israel would pay him heed and rally for battle. As we have shown before, there was no central government that required the men of Israel to respond to Barak's call. Inspiration tells us: "He accepted the message from Deborah as the word of God, but he had little confidence in Israel, and feared that they would not obey his call. He refused to engage in such a doubtful undertaking unless Deborah would accompany him, and thus support his efforts by her influence and counsel" Sons and Daughters of God, p. 37.

It was because Deborah was a prophet and the people respected her judgment that the military leader Barak felt that her presence would encourage Israel to go to battle. It will be noticed that Deborah provided support for Barak's efforts and not he hers. Further, Deborah did not help Barak by taking over military leadership but rather by her influence and counsel.

PROPHETS AS HELPERS

A similar example of the role of a prophet can be seen when Israel returned to Israel from Babylon after the captivity.

Zerubbabel (the civil leader) and Joshua (the religious leader) spearheaded the reconstruction of the temple while the prophets Haggai and Zechariah helped them by providing guidance and encouragement. Here is the record: "*Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. So Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak rose up and began to build the house of God which is in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God were with them, helping them*" EZRA 2:1, 2.

At the time, Zerubbabel was the civil leader in Jerusalem, and Joshua, as the high priest, was the spiritual leader. Did the prophets Zechariah and Haggai usurp the leadership positions of Zerubbabel and Joshua? No. The text clearly states that the prophets helped them in their task of rebuilding the temple by encouraging them to go forward with the project. HAGGAI 1:12-15 clearly reveals the role that was played by God's prophets. God called Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the leaders to build, and Zerubbabel and Joshua in turn answered the challenge by encouraging the people to build. The result was that the temple was finished in just five years. Thus the prophets inspired the leaders but did not usurp their legitimate authority.

This is the role of a prophet. A prophet is a wise counselor that encourages leadership to go forward in faith and

wisely lead God's people. The prophet does not usurp the leadership position but encourages the leaders to fulfill their God-given duty to lead!

THE JEHOSHAPHAT EXAMPLE

Another example of this advisory role of a prophet is found in the story of 2 CHRONICLES 20. As the chapter begins, we see Jehoshaphat fearful because a triple alliance with a massive army was on the march against Judah. In this time of crisis, the people prayed earnestly to God for deliverance and the King himself then uttered a beautiful prayer.

In the midst of the crisis, the prophetic gift fell upon one Jahaziel who encouraged the King to lead the battle not with weapons but by singing the praises of the Lord. Jehoshaphat accepted the counsel and went before the armies along with the Levites and commanded Israel to sing. To rally the troops Jehoshaphat uttered the famous words: "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established; believe His prophets and you shall prosper" 2 CHRONICLES 20:20.

Thus the king and the people were encouraged by the prophet to go out to battle with the assurance of victory. The prophet did not lead the battle. The prophet simply encouraged leadership to pay heed to the counsel given by God and go to battle. The result of Jehoshaphat and Israel paying heed to the prophet was a signal victory for God's people over their enemies. Now

back to the story of Deborah and Barak.

BARAK THE CENTRAL FIGURE

As a prophet, Deborah encouraged the leader to do his duty just as Ellen White later encouraged and counseled the male leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Notably, God called two males to be His prophets before Ellen White, and neither of them accepted the call so God chose the weakest of the weak as His prophet. He chose the most unlikely of candidates—a poor, sickly, young, unstudied woman!

The story of Judges 4 is absolutely clear: It was Barak who summoned Israel to battle (verse 10). It was Barak who led them into battle (verse 14). It was Barak who routed the army of Sisera and defeated it (verse 15). It was Barak who pursued the armies of Sisera until there was no one left (verse 16), and when Sisera fled on foot it was Barak who pursued him (verse 22).

Nowhere in the story are we told that Deborah led the armies into battle and that she gained the victory over the enemy. Did Deborah take over the reins of military leadership when the

man Barak was remiss to do so? No! She actually encouraged Barak to do it, and she provided moral support!

When the victory was gained, Deborah and Barak both sang a song of praise to the Lord who had given Israel the victory (5:12). It is a significant fact that when Samuel later reminisced about this experience, he named Barak as the main protagonist of the story and did not even mention Deborah: “*And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety*” 1 SAMUEL 12:11, ESV.

Did Samuel leave out a reference to Deborah because he lived in a male

dominated society? Pro-ordination lobbyists may suggest that this was the reason, but they are simply reading into the text what is not there.



THE TESTIMONY OF HEBREWS

It bears noting that when the book of Hebrews describes the Old Testament heroes and heroines of faith, mention is made of Barak as the protagonist of the story and Deborah is not even mentioned: “*And what more shall I say? For*

the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets” HEBREWS 11:32.

Does this mean that Deborah's role was not important? Of course not! Her role as a prophet was indispensable to encourage Barak and the troops, but she did not usurp Barak's leadership role to lead Israel into battle as is often argued by the women's ordination lobby.

ILLOGICAL CONCLUSION

To use the story of Deborah the judge and prophetess of Israel to justify the ordination of women as elders and pastors in the church denotes a lack of sound reasoning. If Deborah had been a priestess the parallel might be justifiable, but she was not. Does the following syllogism make logical sense?

- **Major premise:** In the Old Testament, women served as prophets and judges
- **Minor premise:** Deborah was a woman
- **Conclusion:** Therefore Deborah could serve as a priest

The facts speak for themselves. The most that can be argued from the story of Deborah is that God today might call women to be prophets and judges but there is no evidence whatsoever in this story that God calls women today to be senior pastors, elders, or Conference, Union, Division, or General Conference presidents. To argue in this manner denotes a careless misuse of the biblical

evidence as well as illogical thinking.

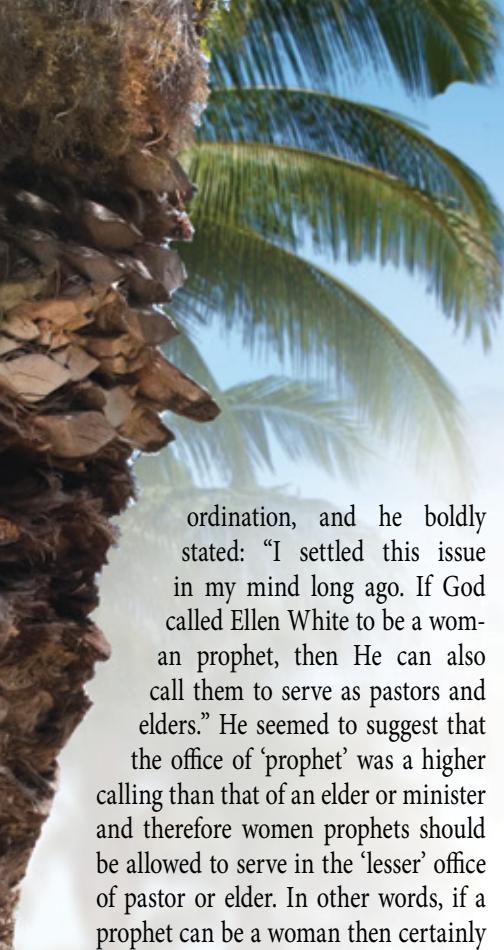
FEMALE PROPHETS

It is an undeniable fact that the Bible mentions a good number of women who served in the role of a prophet. Among these are Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Deborah (JUDGES 4:4), Huldah (2 KINGS 22:14), Noadiah (NEHEMIAH 6:14), Isaiah's wife (ISAIAH 8:3), Anna (LUKE 2:36), and Philip's four daughters (ACTS 21:9). The apostle Paul even said that it was legitimate for women prophets to speak in the congregation as long as they followed the cultural custom of covering their heads as a sign of their submission to male authority (1 CORINTHIANS 11:5). We are also told that in the last days, not only sons but also daughters will prophesy (JOEL 2:28; ACTS 2:17). And who could ever forget the role of Ellen White as the prophetess of the remnant, albeit God's third choice because two men first turned down His call?

It is frequently argued by the women's ordination lobby that if God chose women to be prophets then we should allow women to be ordained as elders and gospel ministers. In fact, I have found that JOEL 2:28, along with GALATIANS 3:28, is one of the most frequently quoted texts in favor of women's ordination.

AN IRON-CLAD ARGUMENT?

Sometime ago, I was speaking with a conference president about women's



ordination, and he boldly stated: "I settled this issue in my mind long ago. If God called Ellen White to be a woman prophet, then He can also call them to serve as pastors and elders." He seemed to suggest that the office of 'prophet' was a higher calling than that of an elder or minister and therefore women prophets should be allowed to serve in the 'lesser' office of pastor or elder. In other words, if a prophet can be a woman then certainly she can also be an elder or gospel minister, right? But is the call of a prophet really higher than that of a gospel minister? Ellen White answers this question: *"There must be no belittling of the gospel ministry. No enterprise should be so conducted as to cause the ministry of the Word to be looked upon as an inferior matter. It is not so. Those who belittle the ministry are belittling Christ. The highest of all work is ministry in its various lines, and it should be kept before the youth that there is no work more blessed of God than that of the gospel minister."* TESTIMONIES, VOL. 6, P. 411

What did Ellen White mean by 'ministry in its various lines'? The succeeding context indicates that she was not writing about ministry in general nor was she gender inclusive. She was referring to young men entering the ministry.

"Let not our young men be deterred from entering the ministry. There is danger that through glowing representations some will be drawn away from the path where God bids them walk. Some have been encouraged to take a course of study in medical lines who ought to be preparing themselves to enter the ministry. The Lord calls for more ministers to labor in His vineyard. The words were spoken: 'Strengthen the outposts; have faithful sentinels in every part of the world.' God calls for you, young men. He calls for whole armies of young men who are large-hearted and large-minded, and who have a deep love for Christ and the truth." TESTIMONIES, VOL. 6, P. 411

So we come back to our original questions: Is the office of prophet higher in rank than the office of the gospel minister? Does the fact that God calls women to the so-called 'higher office' of prophet mean that they can also serve in the supposed 'lesser office' of pastors and elders? Many in the women's ordination lobby would answer in the affirmative.

It is amazing to me how those who argue in this manner are not able to discern the fallacy in their reasoning! Let's analyze the argument from a logical perspective in the form of a syllogism:

- **Major Premise:** The Bible affirms that there were women who were called to the prophetic office
- **Minor Premise:** Ellen White was a woman
- **Conclusion:** Therefore Ellen White was called to be a pastor or elder

The question is: Does the conclusion logically follow the major and minor premises? Of course not! In order to be logical, the syllogism would have to look like this:

- **Major Premise:** The Bible affirms that there were women who were called by God to the prophetic office
- **Minor Premise:** Ellen White was a woman
- **Conclusion:** Therefore God called Ellen White to the prophetic office

The most that can be argued on the basis of women prophets is that women today can be called by God to be prophets. The gift of prophecy is a spiritual gift that is given by God without regard to gender, but this gift must not be mingled with the leadership roles of elder, bishop, or pastor. The Bible allows for gender inclusiveness when it comes to prophets, but it does not allow for this in the case of elders or pastors. In fact, there is not a single instance in Scripture of a woman prophet who was one of the twelve founders of Israel, a member of the council of the seventy, a Levite, a priest, a king, an apostle, a deacon, an elder, a bishop, a pastor, or a husband of one wife!

THE CASE OF HULDAH

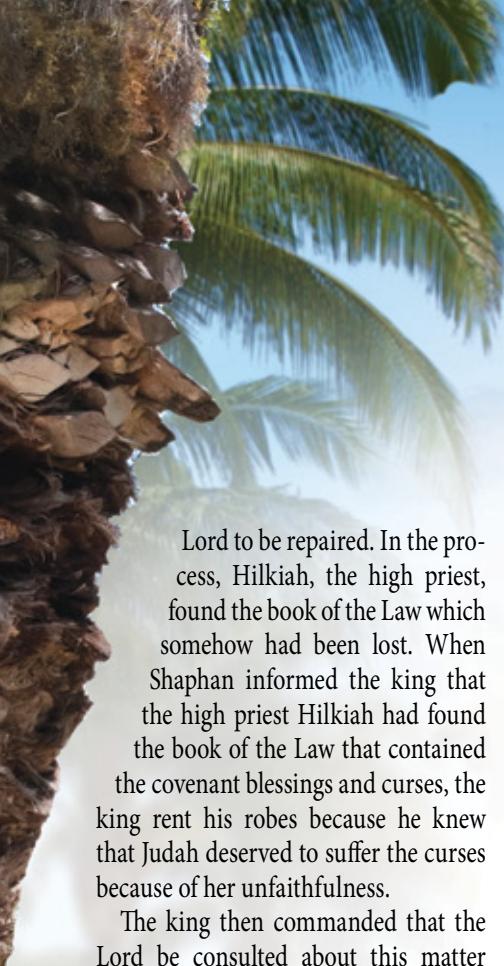
Yet many egalitarian scholars still insist that a woman's call to the prophetic office proves that they can also serve as pastors and elders. The fact that Ellen White was God's prophet to the Remnant Church has led one pro-ordination scholar to affirm: "And if there has ever been anyone in our midst who was a leader and a person of authority, it has been Ellen White. In the context of Ephesians 4:11-14, it becomes difficult to imagine 'ordaining' those exercising other gifts/offices in the church—apostles, evangelists, pastor-teachers—with-out also being willing to 'ordain' those deemed to be 'prophets'."

QUESTIONS AND MORE QUESTIONS

Several questions need to be asked about this statement: Was Ellen White actually a leader and a person of authority in the sense of being an elder, a pastor, or a Conference, Union, or General Conference president? Is the role of a 'prophet' interchangeable with that of an elder or bishop? Were prophets called by God to be leaders in Israel?

HULDAH

The role of the prophet in Scripture as it relates to leadership can be clearly discerned in the story of the discovery of the book of the Law in the days of King Josiah (2 KINGS 22, 23). As is well known, in the eighteenth year of his reign, Josiah ordered the temple of the



Lord to be repaired. In the process, Hilkiah, the high priest, found the book of the Law which somehow had been lost. When Shaphan informed the king that the high priest Hilkiah had found the book of the Law that contained the covenant blessings and curses, the king rent his robes because he knew that Judah deserved to suffer the curses because of her unfaithfulness.

The king then commanded that the Lord be consulted about this matter and messengers were sent to Huldah who was known in town as a prophetess. Huldah received the messengers and with them, sent a message to Josiah prefaced with the words: "this is what the Lord God says." She informed Josiah that the predicted disaster would come upon Judah but that it would not transpire while he was alive.

WAS HULDAH THE LEADER?

The important point to remember here is that Huldah did not take the reins of

leadership in Judah. She did not take over the throne. She did not take over the priesthood to clean up the apostasy. She was merely the messenger that God used to encourage **Josiah to lead out** in the needed reformation. Huldah did not clean up the mess! It was Josiah, the elders, and the priests as the leaders of Judah who took her message to heart and led out in the initiative to make the necessary changes. It was **the king** who ordered the elders of Judah and Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people to come to the temple of the Lord to renew the covenant with Him (2 KINGS 23:1-3). It was **the king** who then commanded Hilkiah to clean up the temple and the land from all the paraphernalia that had been used in the pagan cultus, and it was **the king** who commanded that the unfaithful priests be slain. And it was **the king** who was extolled by the Lord for being a faithful leader: "Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him" 2 KINGS 23:25.

Once again it must be underlined that Huldah did not take the reins of the government or the priesthood to have all of this done. Huldah imparted to the king the message that God gave her, but the designated leader chose to implement her counsel. Josiah could have ignored what the prophet said and the doom upon Judah would have come during his lifetime.

There is clear Biblical evidence that

prophets served as inspired **advisors and counselors** to rulers, and yet the rulers had the governing authority to accept or reject the counsel. That the **rulers had executive power** over the prophets is made clear by what the rulers frequently did to prophets who delivered politically incorrect messages. Among others, Isaiah was sown asunder, Elijah had to flee, Jeremiah was committed to the dungeon (2 CHRONICLES 36:11-15), John the Baptist was beheaded, Stephen was stoned, and Ellen White was shipped off to the Land Down Under.

We are told concerning the leadership of Josiah and the reformation that took place in Judah: "And **he made** all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. Thus **Josiah removed** all the abominations from all the country that belonged to the children of Israel, and [Josiah] **made** all who were present in Israel diligently serve the Lord their God. All his days they did not depart from following the Lord God of their fathers" 2 CHRONICLES 34:32, 33.

THE ADVENTIST ADVANTAGE

Seventh-day Adventists have a distinct advantage when it comes to understanding the role of a prophet as it relates to leadership because we have had one in our midst. As one looks at the life and ministry of Ellen White, we never find her occupying a position

of leadership in the church. She was never a Conference, Union, or General Conference president. She was never a pastor, a bishop, or an elder. She was never referred to as Elder White or Pastor Ellen. She was always Sister White or Mother White. Not only did she deny that she was a leader, but when she spoke of the Seventh-day Adventist organizational system, she underlined that at each level competent **men** should be elected as officers: "**No one has ever heard me** claim the position of leader of the denomination... He has not provided that the burden of leadership shall rest upon a few **men**. Responsibilities are distributed among a large number of competent **men**... Every member of the church has a voice in choosing **officers** of the church. The **church** chooses the officers of the **state** conferences. Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the officers of the **union** conferences, and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the officers of the **General Conference**. By this arrangement every conference, every institution, every church, and every individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice in the election of the **men** who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference ... neither then [when the work was just starting] nor since the work has grown to large proportions, during which time responsibilities have been widely distributed, **has anyone heard me claiming the leadership of this people.**" TESTIMONIES, VOL. 8, p. 236, 237

Make no mistake, God did give her

counsel for the leaders of the church, but she did not usurp their authority to implement or not implement the counsel she gave. She unambiguously stated:

"This is my work—to give to the people the light that the Lord gives me. I am commissioned to receive and communicate His messages. I am not to appear before the people as holding any other position than that of a messenger with a message." TESTIMONIES, VOL. 8, P. 237

This is why she repeatedly referred to herself as the 'messenger of the Lord'. When her counsel was followed, the church was blessed, but when her counsel was ignored or rejected, the church suffered spiritual loss.

By her own witness, Ellen White took orders from church leadership when she did not have any direct light from God to the contrary. The leadership extended a call for her to go to Australia, and even though she would have preferred to stay in California, she responded to the call and spent nine years with great physical pain in the Land Down Under and while there wrote some of her most deeply spiritual books. It is a sobering thought that Ellen White, the Messenger of the Lord, would follow the leadership of the brethren!

ELLEN WHITE AND CREDENTIALS

For many years, Ellen White did receive an 'honorary' ministerial credential, but she was never set apart or ordained for a leadership position in the church by the laying on of human hands or any

other means. An examination of the extant records indicates that she was the only person, male or female, during her lifetime who received a ministerial credential in spite of never being ordained. Other women did receive a ministerial license but none received a credential.

Some women's ordination lobbyists have affirmed that Ellen White was ordained. But this is simply an unfounded fable. The Ellen G. White Estate has in its possession six of Ellen White's paper ministerial credentials: 1883, 1885, 1887, 1899, 1909, and 1913. On the 1883 credential (issued by the Michigan Conference) the word 'ordained' is not crossed off but on the 1885 credential (issued by the General Conference) the word 'ordained' is neatly crossed off. On the 1887 credential the word 'ordained' is not crossed off. This has led some women's ordination advocates to say that she was ordained sometime between 1885 and 1887. However, this presents serious problems. Does this mean that she was ordained in 1883 when the Michigan Conference issued her a ministerial credential, she was then unordained in 1885 because the word 'ordained' is crossed off, and then she was re-ordained in 1887? The simple fact is that she was never set apart as an ordained minister. She was ordained by God to be a prophet, not a pastor, an elder, or a bishop!

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SHEET

Further evidence that Ellen White

MAR 10 1909

Biographical Information Blank

To be preserved by the General Conference as a matter of permanent record.

1. Full name Ellen Gould White Usual form Ellen G. White (Do not write initials)

2. Date of filling this blank March 5, 1909

3. Present address Sanitarium, near St. Helena, Napa Co., Cal.

4. Date and place of birth Worham, Maine, Nov. 26, 1827

5. Give brief summary of labor, year by year, or in periods, until the present time, stating where and in what capacity performed, official or otherwise, with results. Be concise, yet give as many dates and details as possible. From 1846-1852, New England and New York; 1853-1872, east of Mississippi; 1873-1885, California and Northern Eastern States; 1886-87, Europe; 1888-91, California, Michigan, elsewhere; 1892-1909, Australia and New Zealand; 1892-1901-1909, California, and Southern, Middle, and Eastern States.

19. If ordained, state when, where, and by whom

20. What have you done in the way of writing—
 (a) Articles for papers (aside from reports of labor) Regularly in Review & Herald since 1850; likewise 1876; also for So. Hutchinson, Bible Echo (Australia), and other American periodicals.
 (b) Books, pamphlets, or tracts, giving titles, and stating in what language, size, price, and when and where published Voluntasher Prophecy; Desire of Ages; Great Controversy; Education Ministry of Healing; Christ's Object Lessons; Steps to Christ; Manual of Bible Study; Early Writings; Life Sketches; Testimonies for the Church; Vol. 1-15, 1881; numerous smaller works, pamphlets, and tractates.

(c) Translations of important denominational publications Most of the above have been translated into the languages of Europe, and come into use of Asia, Africa, and the islands.

21. Your weight 140 lbs. Height 5 ft. 2". Complexion Light. Hair dark. Color Grey. Color on Grey.

22. General condition of health Uncertain, after feeble.

23. If married, give date, place, to whom, and by whom August 26, 1846, at Portland, Me., to Elder James White, by whom is unknown now.

24. If a married woman, give maiden name Ellen Gould Garrison

25. Is your wife (or husband) still living? No. If not, give date of death August 6, 1881

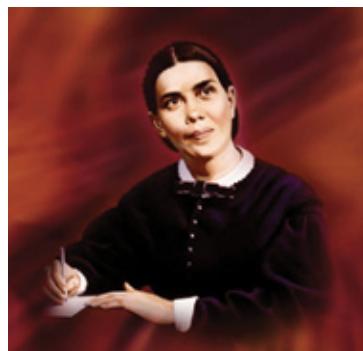
26. If remarried, give date, and to whom

27. Number, names, and ages of children, if any. 1. Henry Nichole White (deceased), James Odson White, William Clarence White, John Herbert White (deceased).
 Please give below any other biographical information you think would be of value or interest in this connection.

SPECIALS

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was never ordained is found on a biographical information sheet that was filled out on her behalf by her assistant, Mary Steward. The form was filled out on March 5, 1909, as requested by the General Conference Office of Records. I quote from the Ellen G. White Estate website: "Question 19 asked, 'If ordained, state when, where, and by whom.' The line was marked with an 'X' indicating that she had not been ordained, just as an 'X' was recorded for question 26, 'If remarried, give date, and to whom.'



W. C. WHITE CONFIRMATION

The final line of evidence that Ellen White was never set apart by the laying on of human hands is found in a letter written by Dores E. Robinson in response to a question that had been asked of W. C. White regarding Ellen White's ordination status. The letter is dated November 17, 1935: "[W. C. White] tells me that Sister White was never ordained, that she never baptized, nor did she ever give the ordination charge to others."

W. C. White was Ellen White's son. Certainly he knew Ellen White's ordination status better than those who are attempting to rewrite history. In spite of all this evidence, the Ellen White ordi-

nation fable is passed on from mouth to mouth as gospel truth. Never mind the facts!

IN CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can safely conclude that Ellen White was set apart by God to be a prophet, not an elder, a bishop, or

a pastor. To say that because Ellen White was a prophet she had the right to be an elder or pastor would be like saying that because I am an elder I have the right to be a prophet! The conclusion simply does not follow the premise!

So, the evidence is crystal clear concerning Deborah and Huldah. In neither case is there a shred of evidence that would justify the ordination of women as elders or pastors. To use these stories in this manner denotes either careless scholarship or a preconceived agenda in favor of women's ordination. God has called women to very important roles in the church, but the apostle Paul leaves no

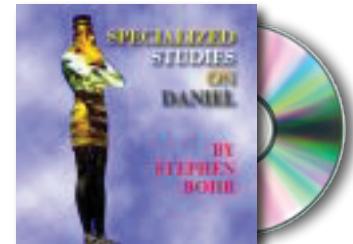


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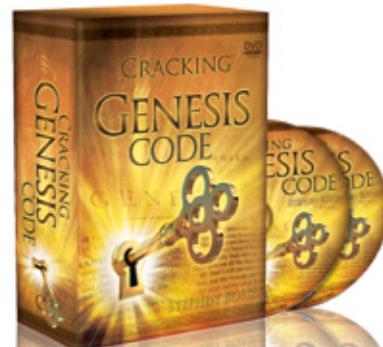
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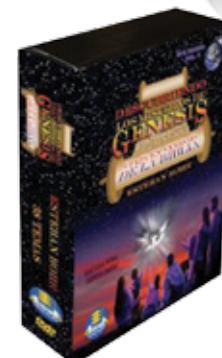
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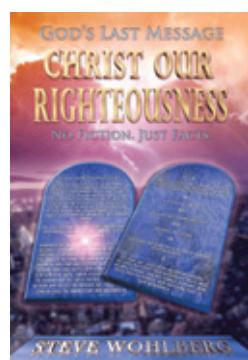
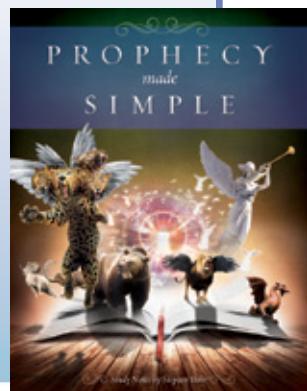
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BUILDING UPDATE

As of July 23, 2013 we have received \$61,008.11 in designated donations towards Phase 3 of our building fund. We still need **\$189,991.89** to complete our final building phase. With your help and by God's grace, we will reach our final goal of \$250,000.



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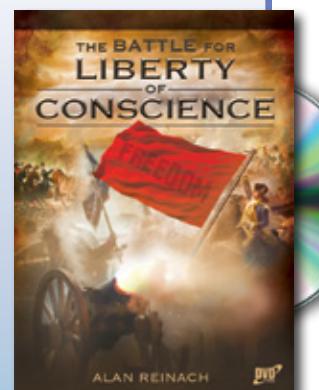


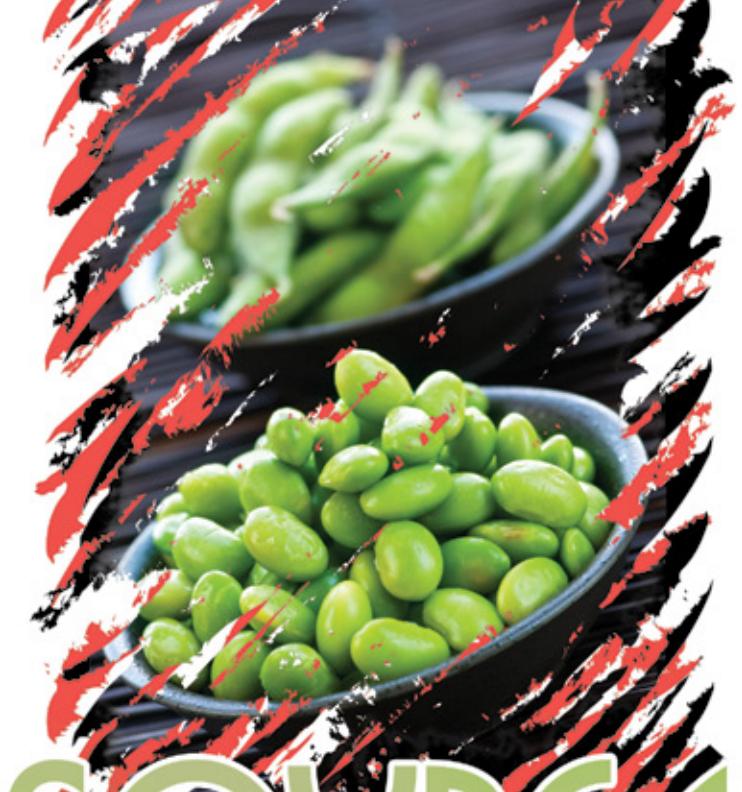
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SOYBEANS

BY MILTON TESKE, MD

Researchers recently sat down and calculated what would happen nutritionally if we replaced all meat and dairy in the United States with soybeans. Interestingly, there would be a significantly increased intake of folate and vitamin K as well as increased calcium, magnesium, and iron — all elements essential for good health. Fiber — with all of its beneficial effects — would be increased. Total protein intake would be down a modest 9% — which, considering that Americans today are suffering from many diseases due to protein excess, would also be a beneficial effect. And,

of course, all of the diseases and cancers related to various animal-born viruses, bacteria, worms, and parasites would be eliminated.

Soy is an excellent source of protein, easily supplying all of our protein needs with a perfect balance of amino acids. And, it can do all this at a fraction of the cost of using animal protein in the diet.

And, of course, if we eliminated the meat and dairy industries, we would eliminate a major source of pollution. The toxic pollution and greenhouse gas produced from these sources far exceeds that produced by all the automobiles

and trucks combined. And, if all of the land now used to produce animal feed was used to produce human food, world hunger would be eliminated overnight.

BENEFICIAL PROPERTIES

The recent interest in soy protein has led to the discovery of a number of unique peptides (very short protein chains) found in soy. Defensins, glycinins, conglycinins, and lunasin are among these special soy peptides, and they provide us with some significant health benefits in terms of improved blood pressure regulation, better control of blood sugar levels, and improved immune function.

A review of over 43 studies by researchers at the College of Medicine at the University of Kentucky concluded that daily soy consumption of 30 grams produced a definite reduction in coronary heart disease as well as a reduction in LDL cholesterol.

Soy is a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, with even higher levels found in the green soybeans we often call **edamame**.

Soy has some significant antioxidant properties as well. An isoflavone named genistein has been extensively studied for its cancer protective properties. We now know that genistein increases the activity of a number of powerful antioxidant enzymes in the body including superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase, catalase, and glutathione reductase.

God obviously knew what he was doing when he created soybeans and engineered all of the complex nutrients he placed there. And, we are just beginning to understand some of these phytonutrients. Recently we have learned about caffeic, coumaric, ferulic, and sinapic acids — all beneficial phenolic

acids found in soy with powerful antioxidant properties.

GENETIC ENGINEERING

Today, man is not content to enjoy the benefits as God has given them to us. We now, through genetic engineering, are recreating the soybean into what we believe will be a better life form. In the United States over 90% of the soy grown is **GMO** (genetically modified organism). One genetic "improvement" they have made is herbicide resistance to glyphosate. Now they can spray lots of this toxic substance on the soybeans and kill all the weeds around it without killing the soybeans. So, we end up with high levels of glyphosate in our food and lots of health problems related to that — so many in fact, that around the world many countries including most of Europe have banned these GMO foods. But, here in the U.S. today, most soy is GMO. I would highly recommend using only non-GMO soybeans — that is, soybeans with the genetic code that God designed still being used.

SOY PROTEIN ISOLATE

After God created soybeans, he looked at them and saw that they were very good. But today, man looks at them and says, "No, I can make them better." And so, we take them to a factory first and we separate out the oil. Now in its free liquid form without antioxidant protection, it is exposed to oxygen and becomes damaged with oxidative free radicals. If we heat it in a frying pan, we can increase this oxidative damage over a million times. This damaged oil is now added into our diet in large amounts, and it is very damaging to the structure

of cell walls and other organelles inside a cell, resulting in cancer and many other disease processes.

In an effort to protect us from this damage, the body's immune system creates a powerful inflammatory response trying to eliminate these oxidative free radicals. This inflammation is the root cause of many diseases and much pain and suffering. Atherosclerosis, resulting in heart attacks and strokes, is the number one cause of death in the U.S. today. Arthritis and degenerative osteoarthritis of the spine are major causes of pain and disability. These are inflammatory responses to oxidized free radicals.

But, after we take the oil out of the soybeans what do we do with what is left over? We take it through a multi-step process in a factory to separate out the protein — to create soy protein isolate. Isolate means the protein is isolated from all of the other substances found naturally in a soybean. During this process, different machines and chemicals are used to get rid of all of those other substances that God engineered into the soybeans for our benefit and leave us with what we think we need — pure protein. (Actually, Americans are getting way too much protein, but that is another story for another day.)

In the process of doing all this, not only are all of the antioxidants removed, but also the protein is exposed to oxygen and, just like the oil we discussed above, becomes a highly oxidized substance full of free radical damage. And so, all soy protein isolate is highly oxidized and very harmful to the body, contributing to inflammatory diseases, cancer, and coronary heart disease just like the oxidized oils.

Huge amounts of this soy protein isolate

are used in processed foods of all kinds today because it is so cheap to produce. If the label says: soy protein, soy protein isolate, TSF (textured soy flour), TSP (textured soy protein), TVP (textured plant protein), etc., you can be sure that it is contributing to atherosclerosis in your arteries and arthritis in your joints.

They now include this as a major ingredient in so many of the "health foods" such as various meat analogs that we sell in our Adventist Book Centers. While you will not get mad cow disease or trichinosis from a soy burger, you will be contributing to heart attacks, cancer, strokes, and arthritis. I would highly recommend that we move away from these processed ingredients to foods prepared from whole plant ingredients.

HEXANE

But, it gets even worse. This process of making soy into soy protein isolate uses a chemical solvent called hexane in one of its first steps. Hexane is a petrochemical, a hazardous substance according to the EPA, and listed as a neurotoxin by the CDC. However, the FDA does not test for it and food companies are not required to monitor for it. They are not required to list it as an ingredient because it is considered part of the processing of the product. Independent testing has shown variable amounts of this to be present in soy protein isolate, sometimes in significantly high amounts. My thinking is that even trace amounts of a known neurotoxin would not be a wise choice to include in our diet.

Almost all soy protein in the U.S. today is hexane extracted. It is possible to isolate protein by other means, and with more attention being directed to it, it is possible to get hexane-free soy protein. Hexane

is not permitted in certified organic products. But labeling can be deceptive. One popular protein bar says "made from organic soybeans," but if you read the ingredient list you will see that "organic soybeans" are a minor ingredient while the first ingredient in the list is "soy protein isolate." So this bar is probably laced with hexane. If it says "**100% USDA Organic**," it should be hexane-free. But of course, if it contains soy protein, it will still be highly oxidized and will contribute to the destruction of your body.



WHOLE PLANT FOODS EATEN WHOLE

The best way to enjoy the benefits that God placed in soybeans is to eat them as a "whole food." **Green soybeans**, known as **edamame**, can be steamed or boiled briefly and are a delicious meal in themselves, or can be added to a meal in many ways. **Tofu** can be made from whole soybeans and is an excellent food that can be prepared in many ways. But *read the label* — some brands add soy protein to their tofu, and I would avoid these. **Soymilk** can be made from whole soybeans as well, but *read the label*. **Dried soybeans** can be cooked and used in many recipes. And remember, no single food should be used in excess in the diet. Many suffer from allergies to soy created by its excess in all of our processed foods and will find relief by eliminating soy entirely from their diets. The best way to get your protein is to always get it from a wide variety of foods — many different legumes as well as many other seeds should all be used rather than relying excessively on a single food like soy.

The more we learn, the more we see

the wisdom in the Creator's plans. **The food as He made it is always the best choice** for our health and happiness.

Every processed and refined product we create seems to be loaded with the seeds of death and destruction. As we move into the last days of this earth's history, disease in the human race is at the highest levels. Now as never before, we need to come back to the simplicity and wholesomeness of God's original diet. We need to lay aside all of these processed, refined products and let our diet simply be fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds. These are the foods that God has given to us and that we will subsist on throughout eternity.

But, not only are we getting our tastes ready for heaven, the urgency and importance of the final message we are to proclaim demands the very best possible of our physical powers. This will be impossible if we are living on the diet of the world around us. God is calling us to a higher standard — not just so that we will be peculiar, but because it is the way He has marked out to give us physical strength, clean arteries, good blood, pain free flexible joints, and a clear, discerning mind with balanced emotions so that we may be a temple that he can pour out His Holy Spirit upon. Then, filled with His Spirit, we may stand in unity with Him and be victorious in the final battle of this earth's history.

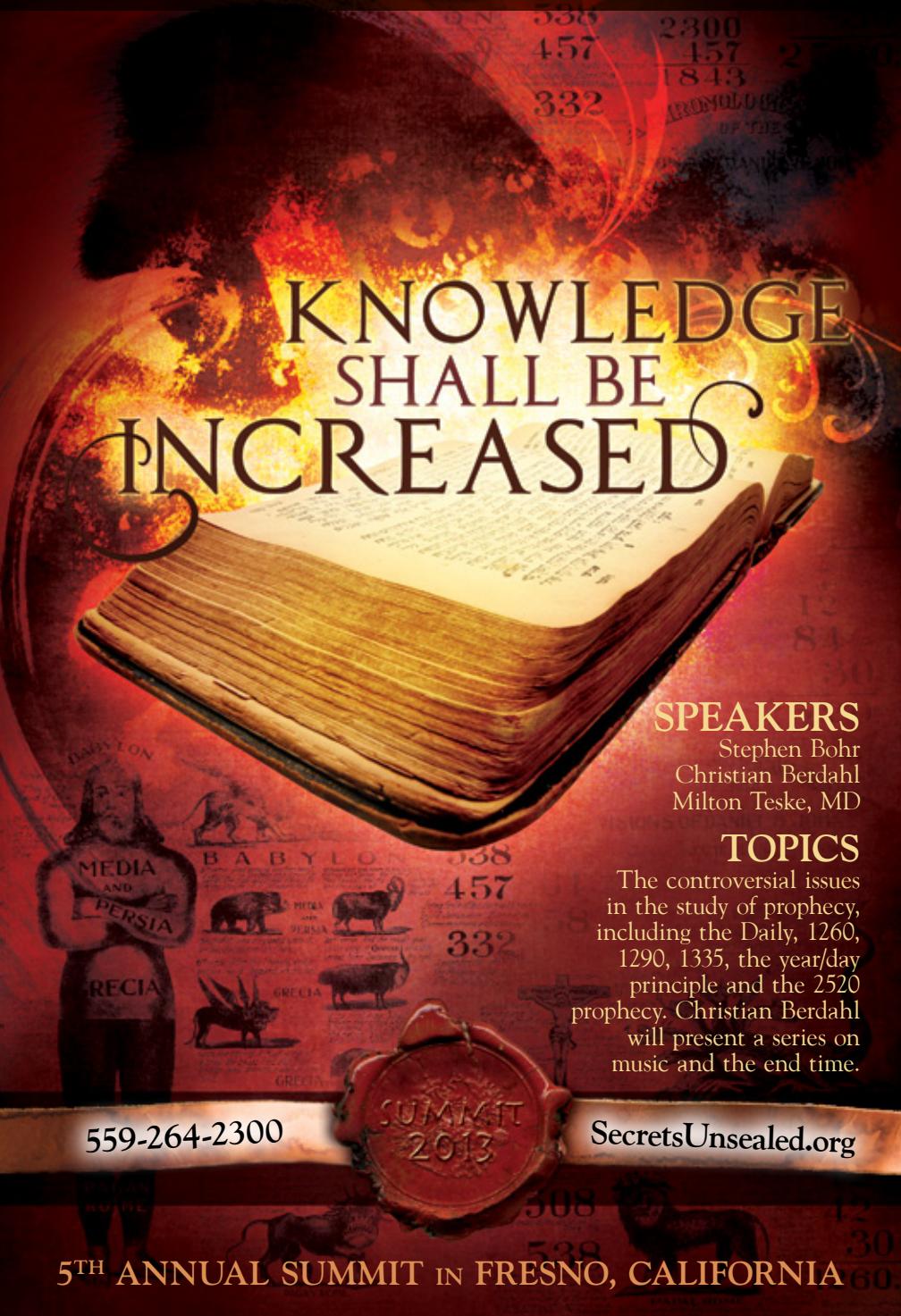
May God give us the wisdom and the victory as we submit fully to every ray of light He gives us.



MILTON TESKE, MD

OCTOBER 10-13, 2013

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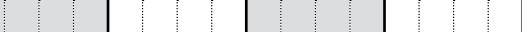
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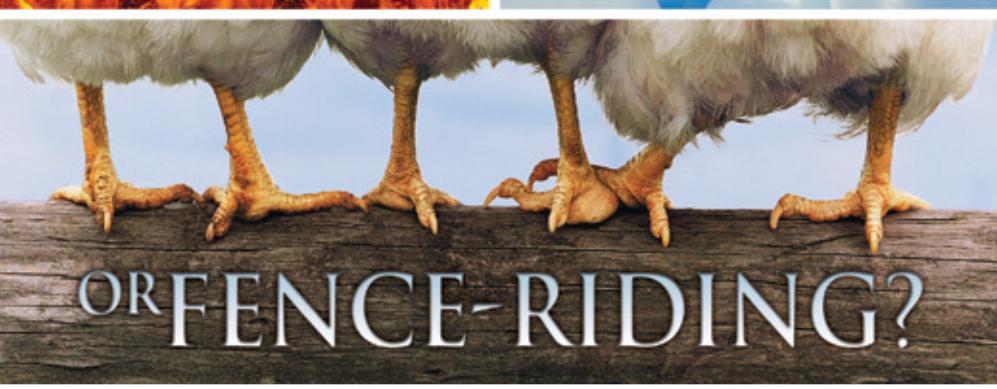
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YOUNG & GODLY



ON FIRE.

FROZEN,



OR FENCE-RIDING?

by Justin Torossian

At the beginning of June, just less than two months ago, a young man named Edward Snowden caused quite a stir. Edward worked for a large corporation that does work for the United States CIA. In a video interview that went public, Edward shared how he had access to the personal information of millions of American citizens — and he wasn't even a high-level employee! He shared about how the United States is collecting massive amounts of data for the purpose of surveillance, and how large infrastructures are being built in order to hold all of the information

that passes through cell phones, home phones, and the internet. Every phone conversation, text message, and Facebook post is documented and stored. Privacy is no longer what it used to be.

In the Time of God's Judgment

Does this scare you? It shouldn't. Whether you realized or not, there is another more detailed and a clearer record being taken down. Heavenly intelligences, holy angels, are taking notes. And you thought your mom had eyes in the back of her head! Not only are our words recorded on their cele-

tial transcripts, but even our inmost thoughts and motives are documented and stored away in the books of heaven. Every single word, every single thought is kept on record without a single mistake. You may wonder, "What is going to happen with this record? Who will examine it, and when?"

The Bible teaches that we are living in the time of the investigative judgment, which began in 1844. (*For a detailed explanation of the timing and purpose of the investigative judgment, check out messages 12-16 of our "His Way is in the Sanctuary" series!*) The Bible tells us a number of things about the judgment, and we're going to discover seven of them quickly:

- God's eyes are on all our ways (Jeremiah 16:17, Job 28:24).
- Every work will be brought into judgment (Ecclesiastes 12:14).
- Every word we've spoken will come up in the day of judgment (Matthew 12:36, 37).
- God doesn't just observe our actions and words, but even records our thoughts (Jeremiah 17:10, Hebrews 4:12).
- Jesus is our Attorney and our Advocate (1 John 2:1).
- Jesus is also our Judge! (John 5:22)
- After Jesus' return, the saved will participate in the judgment of the wicked during the thousand years in heaven (1 Corinthians 4:5, Revelation 20:4).

To make it simple, when our name comes up in the judgment, one of two things will be blotted out of the Heavenly records. It will either be seen that our sins have been left unconfessed, and since the wages of sin is death, **our names** must be blotted out of the Book of Life (Ex. 32:33); or that **our sins** written in the record books have been blotted out by the precious blood of Jesus (Isaiah 44:22)! Our only hope to stand in the time of the judgment is in Christ! And He has a message for us today as to how.

The Laodicean Dilemma

In the book of Revelation, Jesus has a special message for His churches in seven different locations across Asia Minor. But beyond just being messages to these seven *literal* New Testament churches, these seven letters carry *prophetic* significance to the Christian church, and symbolize seven periods of its history. The very last time period, the church of Laodicea, began in 1844 when Jesus went into the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly sanctuary, and the investigative judgment began.

The name "Laodicea" actually means, "a people judged," or "people of the judgment." Even the meaning of the name makes clear to us that we are the people living in the time of the Laodicean church. This is not a message for Suzy Q next door, it's for us! This message specifically applies to Seventh-day Adventists, and Jesus doesn't hold back. He tells it like it is, even when it hurts ... because He loves us. So what does Jesus have to say to the Laodicean church?

Christ begins with the church's prob-

lem — they are neither hot, or cold. They don't have a burning love and zeal for God, or a cold indifference and hardened heart. They were neither freezing or on fire — they are fence-riding. Rather than being refreshing or beneficial to Him, this lazy, lukewarm attitude makes Jesus sick! In addition to this, Jesus says, “*You say I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked*” (Revelation 3:17). Jesus’ words are packed with meaning when we take a look at this ancient city.

So, what was the city of Laodicea like? First of all, it did not have its own water source, but their water was piped in from hot springs five miles to the south. On its way there, the water became lukewarm, making people queazy. Laodicea was also filthy rich! When a massive earthquake in the year 60AD leveled most of the city, the citizens rejected the Roman government offer of money to help, and paid to rebuild it out of their own pockets! A Greek historian, Strabo, tells us that the city was also well known for their medical school, and there was a famous ophthalmologist (eye doctor) who worked there. They also made eye-salve, which served as medication. Laodicea was also renowned for the fine black wool of its sheep. Can you see the contrast that Jesus made between their physical status and their spiritual dilemma? All this, yet they were spiritually “*poor, blind, and naked*.”

The Solution of the Savior

Have you ever been driving in your

car, gotten out and washed your windshield, and been amazed at how dirty it was without you realizing it? If so, then you know what it's like to be partially blind. Our eyes determine how we perceive reality, and unless we recognize our blindness, we won't seek help. But when we admit our need, Jesus offers to “*annoint [our] eyes with eye-salve, that [we] may see*” (Revelation 3:18). That eye-salve is the word of God (SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 965). As we begin reading and studying His word, we begin to have a clearer picture of reality and constantly see our need for Christ to live in our hearts.

Let's be honest. It's all too easy to think, “I'm not that bad of a person ... I'm not like *that one kid* at school. Sure, I may not be super close to Jesus or excited about my faith ... but I'm



an OK person.” But when our spiritual eyes are opened, we recognize that even our thoughts are weighed in God's judgment. We see that we have nothing and are nothing without a real faith in Christ. We see that we are spiritually poor. But Jesus has the solution! His invitation is, “*Buy of Me gold tried in the*

fire, that you may be rich” (vs. 18). This gold is representative of faith. Faith that comes through trial and difficulty ... faith that has put God to the test, and seen Him true to His word. This kind of faith lays hold of Christ's robe of righteousness, and enables us to stand in the judgment with confidence!

The final remedy that Jesus offers is to grant us “white robes.” These represent His pure, righteous character. Isaiah 61:10 says, “*He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.*” Though our characters are stained with the blackness of sin, we can “*wash our garments white in the blood of the Lamb*” (Revelation 7:14). In this way we are preparing to spend eternity with the holy angels and with God Himself!

Today May Be Our Last

On June 15, I was driving down from Yosemite. After a late night and an early morning, I was not as alert as I should have been. Before I knew it, I saw in front of me a large 12-passenger van stopped in the middle of my lane. I slammed on the brakes, but it was too late. The 50mph impact came quickly. My airbags went off, and I bounded off the road to the right. I said a prayer as I knew there were trees beyond,

but couldn't see past the airbags. The car finally came to a halt, directly in between two trees. I climbed out of the passenger door without a single scratch — a complete miracle! Praise God, the driver of the van was just fine as well.

Especially as young people, we tend to think we're invincible — that life will just keep marching onward. But the truth is, is that we never know what day may be our last. I praise God for sparing my life in that accident, and I want to

be ready to meet Him should my life end at any time. Do you long to receive spiritual vision from His word and to develop a faith more precious than gold? Would you like to live every moment wear-



ing the white robe of His righteousness? Accept Him into your heart today, and let the transformation begin!



PASTOR JUSTIN TOROSSIAN

The Lost Coin Is

FOUND



LESSON 14

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we will study the parable of the Lost Coin. We will find in our research that this parable has three dimensions. First, it describes the search for those who are lost in our own literal household. Second, it applies to the search for those who are lost in God's great household — the world. Lastly, it denotes the search for the Sabbath commandment which has been lost by the Christian world. Before we study these three dimensions, let's deal with some introductory matters and try to decipher the symbols.

THE SYMBOLS IN THE PARABLE

1. What is represented by the woman in the parable of the lost coin?
"I have _____ the daughter of _____ to a comely and delicate _____." (Jeremiah 6:2)

2. What metaphor is used to describe the relationship between God and His people? "Husbands, love your _____, even as Christ also loved the _____. (Ephesians 5:25)

NOTE: The woman in this parable represents the church and the husband represents Jesus. As we shall see in the next question, the coins symbolize the marriage portion which Jesus has entrusted to His church's care.

3. What is represented by the coins in this parable and why would finding one which was lost lead to such a great celebration?
"The wife's _____ portion usually consisted of pieces of _____, which she carefully preserved as her most cherished possession to be _____ to her own _____. The loss of one of these pieces would be regarded as a serious _____, and its recovery would cause great rejoicing, in which the neighboring women would readily share." (COL 193)

NOTE: Precious souls have been entrusted by Christ to His church. They are to be carefully preserved, and if one is lost in Christ's household, no effort is to be spared to find them! In the parable it was the woman [the church] who lost the coin—she is responsible!!

4. In what sense is a lost soul similar to the lost coin? "The coin, though lying among the dust and rubbish, is a piece of silver _____. Its owner seeks it because it is of _____. So every soul, however degraded by sin, is in God's sight accounted _____. As the coin bears the _____ and superscription of the reigning power, so man at his creation bore the image and superscription of God; and though now _____ and dim through the influence of _____, the traces of this inscription remain upon every soul." (COL 194)

NOTE: Ellen White describes the value of a soul: "The wealth of earth dwindles into insignificance when compared with the worth of a single soul for whom our Lord and Master died. He who weigheth the hills in scales and the mountains in a balance regards a human soul as of infinite value." (God's Amazing Grace, p. 173)

5. What is represented by the lamp? "Thy _____ is a lamp unto my feet, and a _____ unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

6. Why would it be so difficult to find a lost coin in the houses of Biblical times? *"In the East the houses of the poor usually consisted of but one _____, often windowless and _____. The room was rarely _____, and a piece of money falling on the floor would be speedily _____ by the dust and rubbish."* (COL 192)

7. THOUGHT QUESTION: Using a little "sanctified logic," what do you think is represented by the act of sweeping away all the rubbish from the house? (HINT: Mark 7:7-9) _____

THE NARROWEST MEANING: LOST AT HOME

1. What is the difference between the lost sheep and the lost coin? "But the two parables represent different classes. The lost sheep knows that it is _____. It has left the shepherd and the flock, and it cannot _____ itself. ... The lost coin represents those who are lost in trespasses and sins, but who have no _____ of their condition. They are _____ from God, but they know it not. Their souls are in _____, but they are unconscious and _____. " (COL 193-194)

2. What is the first dimension of the parable of the lost coin? "This parable has a lesson to _____. In the household there is often great _____ concerning the souls of its _____. " (COL 194)

3. What should be done in the home when one child is unconscious of his sinful state? "If there is in the family one _____ who is unconscious of his sinful state, parents should not _____. Let the candle be lighted. Search the _____ of God, and by its light let everything in the home be diligently examined, to see why this child is _____. " (COL 195)

4. What is the first duty of fathers and mothers? *"There are fathers and mothers who long to labor in some _____ mission field; there are many who are active in Christian work _____ the home, while their own children are _____ to the Saviour and His love. ... The education and training of their children to be _____ is the _____ service that parents can render to God."* (COL 195).

5. What joyous words will be uttered to God by parents who have worked for the salvation of their children? *"Behold, I and the _____ whom the Lord hath _____ me."* (Isaiah 8:18)

THE BROADER MEANING: THE WORLD IS GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

1. What is the broader meaning of the "household" in the parable of the lost coin? "God's great human _____ embraces the _____, and none of its members are to be passed by with _____. " (COL 196)

2. In the broader sense of the parable, what is meant by the lost coin? "Day by day we meet with those who take no _____ in religious things [the secular person]; we talk with them, we visit among them; do we show an _____ in their spiritual welfare? Do we present _____ to them as the sin-pardoning Saviour?" (COL 196)

3. Will God hold us accountable for the loss of these secular people? "If we do not [tell them about the love of Christ], how shall we _____ these souls-lost, _____ lost-when with them we stand before the _____ of God?" (COL 196)

NOTE: In the parable, the woman represents the church, and the church is respon-



sible for the salvation of those who have no interest in religious things. God will hold us accountable for the eternal loss of those whom we could have witnessed to and didn't.

4. How can we estimate the value of a human soul? "For our redemption, heaven itself was _____ . At the foot of the cross, remembering that for _____ sinner Christ would have laid down His life, you may _____ the value of a soul." (COL 196)

5. What will we do if we are in communion with Christ? "If you are in communion with Christ, you will place His _____ upon every human being. You will feel for others the same deep _____ that Christ has felt for you. Then you will be able to _____, not drive, to _____, not repulse, those for whom He died." (COL 197)

6. Though secular people are hard to reach, what assurance does God give us as we work for them? "Angels will _____ you to reach the most _____ and the most _____. And when one is brought back to God, all _____ is made glad; seraphs and cherubs touch their golden harps, and sing praises to God and the Lamb for their _____ and loving-kindness to the children of men." (COL 197)

A THIRD DIMENSION OF THE PARABLE

1. What kind of covenant did Jesus establish with Israel at Mt. Sinai? Jesus said: "I was an _____ unto them" (Jer. 31:32)

NOTE: It is clear that Jesus married Israel at Mt. Sinai. Christ was the husband and Israel was His bride (see, Jerermiah 6:2). This is the reason why Israel was called a harlot when she fell in love with the gods of other nations (see, Ezekiel, chapters 16 and 23). The prophets were actually God's lawyers in divorce court!

2. What did Jesus give Israel as its marriage portion? "And he declared unto you his _____, which he commanded you to perform, even _____ commandments, and he wrote them upon two tables of stone." (Deuteronomy 4:13)

3. Was the Sabbath understood to be a sign of the marriage covenant relationship between Christ and His people? "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual _____ . It is a _____ between me and the children of Israel for _____: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he _____ and was _____ ." (Exodus 31:16-17)

NOTE: In the parable of Jesus the marriage portion consisted of ten silver coins. In the covenant of Christ with Israel the marriage portion consisted of ten commandments.

4. To what is the law of God compared? "The _____ of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of _____ and _____ ." (Psalm 119:72)

NOTE: Significantly, the value of God's ten commandments is compared to the value of pieces of silver and gold.

5. Was there any particular danger that God's people would lose sight of one of the ten commandments? " _____ the Sabbath day to keep it _____ ." (Exodus 20:8)

6. Did Israel actually lose sight of the Sabbath? "Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, 'What evil thing is this that ye do, and _____ the _____ day? Did not your _____ thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? Yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the _____ .' " (Nehemiah 13:17-18)

NOTE: The Old Testament testimony clearly indicates that Israel repeatedly forgot the Sabbath and profaned it. The Gospels add that the Jews of Christ's day had lost the profound meaning of the Sabbath!



7. THOUGHT QUESTION: Has the Christian world today lost sight of the Sabbath? _____ What must be done in order to recover it? The church must light the _____ [the Bible], sweep the house [sweep away the rubbish of human traditions], and diligently _____ for the lost commandment. It must then joyously _____ to everyone that it has retrieved that which was lost!

REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

1. What did Nebuchadnezzar do to the wall of Jerusalem when he destroyed the city? *“And they burnt the house of God, and _____ down the _____ of Jerusalem. . . .”* (II Chronicles 36:19)

2. After the Babylonian captivity, who undertook the task of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem? _____. (Nehemiah 1:1-3)

3. What did Nehemiah encourage the people to do? *“Let us build up the _____ of Jerusalem, that we be no more a _____.”* (Nehemiah 2:7)

4. What was the people's response when Nehemiah encouraged them to rebuild the wall? *“So built we the _____; and all the wall was _____ together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to _____.”* (Nehemiah 4:6)

5. When God's people seriously undertook the work, what did their enemies do? *“But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the _____ of Jerusalem were made up, and that the _____ began to be stopped, then they were very _____.”* (Nehemiah 4:7)

6. What was a great obstacle in the rebuilding of the wall? *“And Judah said, ‘the strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and*



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there is so much _____; so that we are not able to build the _____.” (Nehemiah 4:10)

7. What are we told about the wall when it was finished? *“There was no _____ therein.”* (Nehemiah 6:1)

8. How long did it take to rebuild when all the people worked together? *“So the wall was _____ in the twenty and fifth day of the month of Elul, in _____ and _____ days.”* (Nehemiah 6:15)

9. What is symbolized by the breach in the Jerusalem wall? *“In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. The _____ made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be _____.* God's remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show that the _____ of God is the foundation of all enduring reform and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God.” (Prophets and Kings, p. 678)

10. What Biblical foundation does Ellen G. White provide to sustain her view as expressed in question # 9? _____

(Prophets and Kings, p. 678).





Win-Win Proposition

The Charitable Gift Annuity is a perfect example of how our tax laws continue to provide special ways for you to accomplish two objectives with one asset. In fact, a close look at the Gift Annuity reveals a true win-win proposition.

The Gift Annuity makes it possible for you to receive high returns on an asset for the rest of your life. (See the *illustration of sample rates on the right page*.) This only tells half the story.

The Gift Annuity ultimately results in a charitable contribution. So, while you can take steps to secure a high annuity payment for the rest of your life, you can also realize philanthropic goals.

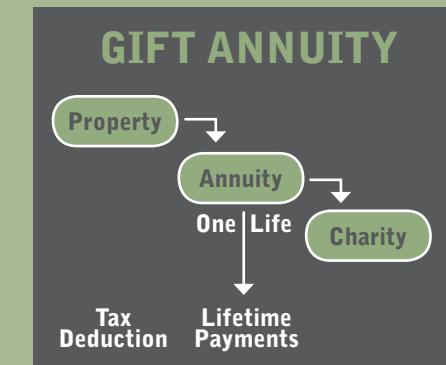
Here's How A CGA Works

A Gift Annuity is a contract. Payments are backed by all the assets of the charity. Therefore, you can be confident that the Gift Annuity will provide a reliable income.

In addition, two tax benefits add value to the Gift Annuity. First, you will receive a current income tax deduction—something you will appreciate when you file this year's tax return. Second, part of each annuity payment we make to you may be tax-free!

The illustration shows how the agreement works. Once established, income payments are made for life. Annuity rates (the rate for income payments made to you) are based on age and are higher for more senior persons.

With the benefits of high payment rates, reduced taxes, and an ultimate gift to charity, it is easy to see why so many friends consider the Gift Annuity to be the ultimate win-win proposition!



HERE'S A WIN-WIN PROPOSITION

Introducing the "Triple My CD Return"
Charitable Gift Annuity



It is simple. We will send you a Charitable Gift Annuity Agreement in exchange for your contribution (check, stocks or bonds). Each year for the rest of your life we will mail payments to you. Or, if you prefer, the agreement can run for the lives of you and your spouse.

These Rates Are Just One Reason Why the Charitable Gift Annuity Is A Win-Win Proposition

Rates for One Life Charitable Gift Annuities

AGE	RATE
60	4.4%
65	4.7%
68	4.9%
70	5.1%
72	5.4%
74	5.7%
76	6.0%
78	6.4%
80	6.8%
82	7.2%
84	7.6%
86	8.0%
88	8.4%
90	9.0%



Other Options to Meet Your Objectives

This brochure shows one example of how charitable tax planning offers philanthropic individuals and families a win-win proposition.

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To receive a complimentary personalized illustration, you are invited to call or e-mail us.

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Annuities are not available in AL, MD & WA. Annuities for CA & IL residents are provided by Pacific Union Conference of SDA. Gift Annuities for HI residents are provided by Hawaii Conference of SDA. Annuities for all other States are provided by Western Adventist Foundation. (This information is provided as an education service. Personal advisors should always be consulted.) Copyright © 2010 Crescendo Interactive, Inc.



Bible

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Jesus said to clean the inside of these first
- "For what does the Scripture ____?"
- Second city taken by Joshua
- Where the household of Korah had its end
- Job to be completed by a specific time
- "And whoever says to his brother, ____ shall be in danger of the council."
- His wife was turned into a pillar of salt
- Laodicea is neither ____ nor hot
- Of this man it was said, "A prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel."
- "There is ____ body and ____ Spirit ..."
- His name means "produced of the red earth"
- Fasted 3 days & nights

before death decree

24. Ezekiel's vision of dry

25. Moses brought their ____ before the Lord

26. First month of the Jewish calendar

28. The iron that did swim

29. These are quenched with the shield of faith

30. "I will ____ no evil; for Thou art with me"

32. "____ your bread upon the waters ..." Ecol 11:1

34. "Even so, the ____ is a little member and boasts great things."

35. The father of king Saul

39. To estimate the normal capacity or power

40. "____ not on your own understanding"

41. "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not ____"

42. Support the feeble-minded & ____ 1 Thess. 5

DOWN

- "No spring yields both ____ water and fresh." James 3
- Those who are well need not a physician, but those who are ____
- "We shall all stand before the judgment ____ of Christ."
- "____ I leave with you, My ____ I give to you."
- "You prepare a ____ before me in the presence of my enemies"
- "Sharper ____ any two-edged sword."
- Isaac's mother
- Jesus and the disciples met in the upper ____
- These tiny creatures formed the basis Samson's riddle
- Thrown into a ____ of lions
- Excessively dry

20. "____ earnestly for the faith" Jude 3

21. "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are ____"

23. "I, the Lord, ____ the heart, I test the mind"

24. "Let them shut and ____ the doors"

27. "Ye are the ____ of the earth."

31. A hybrid between a horse and a donkey

33. "When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling, a ____ or a bright spot"

36. Jesus was born in a stable as there was no room in the ____

37. Jesus said, "This is My blood of the ____ covenant ..."

38. "But he who endures to the ____ shall be saved." Matthew 24

